



**KATHY'S KREATIONS**  
141 East Main Street  
Ligonier, PA 15658  
724-238-9320  
DECEMBER 2011 UPDATE



Dear Stitchers,

There's quite a bit of talk at this time of year about gift knitting and crocheting. We craft gifts by hand for our loved ones for many reasons, but mostly because we love making them for the special people in our lives. Besides, it's a great way to try new yarns, patterns and techniques!

Scarves, triangular shawls and cowls seem to be at the top of most gift lists right now, with hats and handwarmers not far behind. "Kathy's" is filled with comfort-and-joy ideas from CHURCHMOUSE DESIGNS -- the lace-weight bias loop wrap, the colorful Linen Stitch Scarf and the clever Ruffled Scarf made from CLAUDIA HANDPAINTED YARNS fingering merino, "texting" fingerless mitts in DK, worsted weight ribbed caps for the family, and dozens of choices in between. If you are down to the last minute, check out the quirky 20 minute BERROCO "Link" scarf (no kidding, we timed it!), knit with jumbo needles and super-chunky yarn.

Warm everyone up with cozy garments and accessories for winter -- get started right away with our holiday promotion:

**DECEMBER IS "HAVE A WOOL YULE" MONTH**  
All regularly-priced 100% wool yarns (all weights)  
in stock are 10% off throughout December 2011

**Hours: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday**  
Kathy is usually away on Wednesday, but the shop is open

**TOWN-WIDE LIGONIER MERCHANTS OPEN HOUSE**  
Sunday, December 18, 2011 12 noon - 4 pm

We accept Mastercard, VISA, Discover, AX  
Private knitting, crochet, spinning, and drop spindle  
instructions are available by appointment  
Finishing services & gift certificates available  
Shopping at Kathy's Kreations has never been easier  
COME IN - CALL UP - LOG ON

**If all else fails, we've got gift certificates!**  
e-mail [kathy@kathys-kreations](mailto:kathy@kathys-kreations)  
please visit our website [www.kathys-kreations.com](http://www.kathys-kreations.com)



\*\*\* GREAT NEW STUFF \*\*\*

'Tis the season to be making beautiful things. We're here to help make the holidays easier for you: easier with fantastic gift giving ideas to spark your creativity, easier with project suggestions and in-shop models, easier with technical support and how-to help. We work hard to find gift ideas that you won't find anywhere else so that what you make can be one-of-a-kind, quality items, keeping within your budget. And nothing is more unique than a gift made with your hands, and here's what's new, what's now for the holidays and beyond...

In *Knits Accessories 2011* (\$14.99, shown upper left), editor Lisa Shroyer tells us, "Elegance is described as the attribute of being unusually effective and simple at the same time. In other words, to make the biggest impact with the least material, to remove all excess, to hone". This issue includes simply striking and effective knits that make the most of yarn, stitch, and style. Knitwear has the power to affect the everyday and the extraordinary -- from a favorite hat to a breath-taking bridal shawl. With streamlined details, small stitches, and pretty patterning, a knitted accessory can be not only the most-loved piece in your wardrobe, but a work of art.

Whether you're planning a wedding or seeking a special accessory for every day, you'll find joy in shawls (there are four gorgeous ones for the big day). Other little works of art (42 in all) include socks, hats, cowls, mitts, scarves, and ascots -- all of those things that are on everyone's gift list for the holidays, including your favorite guys. Joni Coniglio's tutorial on knitting a closed-tube cowl is well worth the read. This standout issue is a "keeper"...

*Interweave Knits Winter 2011* (\$6.99) includes 23 delightful knits for stitching your way through winter. The deeply etched textures and cocoonlike shapes are true comfort knitting and will help to warm your world. Our favorite feature, "Beyond the Basics: Cables 101" in which editor Eunny Jang shares her trade secrets and demystifies cables, once and for all. There are also projects with seamstress detailing, vintage fits, winter lace and playful silhouettes. A new addition, Designer's Notebook, explores the tools, techniques, and tricks of handknitting design. Knitting contains endless possibilities -- you can make anything you want, any way you want, so knit on!

It's winter and we all have knitting or crocheting on the brain and in our hands, right? There are so many fun projects in the winter 2011 *Knit simple* (\$6.99, shown lower right) that we predict you'll have trouble choosing which one to make first! In the story entitled "Shawl We Knit?", you'll find a handful of pretty, stylish wraps that can be worn alone or over heavier garments. There are cozy cardigans for weekend getaways, when it's time to unwind from work, and several in plus sizes. There are quilt-inspired afghans -- one knit, one crocheted -- that play with color palettes and geometrics in charming ways. There are also casually chic cowls, capes and caps in eye-catching combos, as well as great accessories that knit up 1, 2, 3 with just that many balls of yarn. It's maximum flair with minimal effort...

Just in time for the holidays -- KNIT PICKS interchangeable needles sets in Harmony & nickel-plated, blocking boards, blocking wires, Harmony (rainbow wood) dpns, nickel-plated circulars, and more. Why order online and pay shipping?



\*\*\* MORE GREAT NEW STUFF \*\*\*

Here are the latest on-trend fashion patterns for accessories, to wear during the holidays and every day, and also slippers, a great gift idea: "Ishbel" by Ysolda (\$6.50, shown right) -- a simple shawl pattern that can be worked in two sizes and two different yarn weights. The shawl begins at the solid stockinette center and is worked outward to the edging. Working increases at both ends of every row creates a relatively shallow triangular shawl that can be worn as a scarf or elegantly draped around the shoulders...



"Phoncible Hat" by Dull Roar(\$6.50) -- a vertical striped cuff with horizontal striped slouchy hat worked entirely in stockinette stitch with two shades of self-striping yarns

"Crayon Hat" by Grannycore (\$5.50) -- a simple K2, P2 easy rib hat sized for kids to adults; ask to see our shop model in K1, C2 "Paintbox"...

"Turkish Bed Socks" by Churchmouse Classics (\$5.50, shown lower left) -- slipper socks using one-skein of fingering yarn; these make great gifts as they are easy to fit and don't take much yarn. Nice for around the house, great for travel, or wear with clogs.; ask to see our shop model knit with MADELINE TOSH "Tosh Sock"...

"Malabrigo Loafers" by CocoKnits (\$7.50) -- worked in double stranded worsted weight yarn, wearing these loafers is like walking on a cloud...

"Knotted Slipper" by Cocoknits (\$7.50) -- delicate little foot coverings to help feet transition into relaxation mode. Try them in a luxurious fingering weight yarn for a special gift...

"Pleated Ballet Flats" by Cocoknits (\$7.50) -- another sweet gift item for a special gal

A soft and airy wool blend, BERROCO "Lacey" (\$17.50, 29 yards, 100 grams, 60% acrylic / 25% wool / 15% nylon) sets itself apart from other novelty yarns. It works up quickly into a dramatic cascade of ruffles. There's a free pattern for a scarf on the inside of the label. The pattern uses just one hank and features both knit and crochet versions, which is one of the easiest stitches you will ever work...

Fresh from the Bedford Springs Resort Knittreat comes Hannah Fettig's "Knitbot" patterns (\$6.50 each). Claudia McLean of CLAUDIA HANDPAINTS looked stunning in the "Effortless Cardigan", a drapey, top-down cardigan that is deceptively simple to create. Ask to see our "Featherweight Cardigan" model worked in CLAUDIA HP "Cottonball" secrets colorway, a perfectly lightweight knit. The "Contented Cardigan" is an open-front cardie with a surprise cable detail on the back, while the "Autumnal Cardigan", sure to become a favorite, is the perfect weekend cover-up with wide ribbed collar. Perhaps our favorite is the "Sock Yarn Sweater", a top-down crew-neck sweater for newborns to teenagers...

No December update would be complete without some ideas for stocking stuffers

and small gifts for knitting friends: Lo-Lo Bar (\$8.50 & \$14.25); KNIT HAPPY mega sticky notes (\$10.50, refillable); KNIT HAPPY lint remover sheets (\$4.50, pack of 50); SUSAN BATES Handi tool (\$2.25, aka cool tool); KNITTER'S PRIDE Dreamz circular needles (\$9.95, color coded wood); KNITTERELLA gift tags (\$4.50, don't forget holiday tags for yourself); CLOVER coil knitting needle holders (\$6.50, large or small); LANTERN MOON tape measures (\$10.50); Itty Bitty scissors (\$6.50) & more daily!





\*\*\* JUST FOR HIM \*\*\*

This enjoyable article appeared in the November-December 2011 *Country Register*, "The Dropped Stitch" column written by Sharon Greve. Sharon has graciously given us permission to reprint the article. Thank you, Sharon! Anyone who has ever knit for a boyfriend, husband, significant other, or Dad will appreciate her insights...

"Any time is a good time to knit something special for your guy, but Christmas is the most popular. Sometimes, however, the generous knitter regrets her gift-giving. Many single women have knitted a sweater of love for a boyfriend, only to have the relationship fail before the project is completed. Or, she gifts a garish holiday or ski-sweater which took her many hours and many dollars to knit of which she is very proud, only to hear him gasp with dislike and shock. Over the years, this has become known as the "boyfriend curse" -- especially with college coed beginning knitters. And, what wife hasn't secretly knit many hours creating a work of art for her husband, only to discover he refuses to wear it. A Knitter's Review poll reported 41% of knitters were aware of the curse and were cautious in relationship knitting while 15% said they actually experienced the curse. The good news is that for every cursed experience, there's a happy knitter whose husband wears his sweater, even if it's in the garage!

So, how does a knitter successfully create a gift of love for her guy -- one he will enjoy and wear in public? By knitting what HE wants with the following guidelines.

First, take a good look at your guy -- a really good look! Take note of his positive areas (broad shoulders, eye color, biceps) and his negative areas (broad mid-section for some). Does he have a short or long torso, long or short arms? Men are just as concerned about their appearance and fit of clothing as women. Take measurements to ensure a good comfortable fit or measure a garment that fits him well. Work a gauge swatch for accuracy and adjust the sweater pattern as needed.

Next, in selecting a sweater pattern and yarn, keep his body shape and maturity in mind. Men don't like a "busy" or complicated look. Stick to straight or geometric designs. Simple cables, ribbing, garter, and stockinette stitches are popular with men. Don't let the sweater overpower the man; it should compliment him. The viewer should see the man first and the sweater second. Men like freedom of movement. Bulky yarns and heavy textures are not favorable. A man of slight stature appears weighted down while a man of full stature appears larger and heavier. The reverse is true with lightweight yarns. Again, consider the man's size first as you would for a woman.

Forget the colors you select for yourself. Men don't care for bright, wild colors, or baby pink, lemon yellow, or Halloween orange. As one man said: "I don't want to be a billboard of design or color." Variegated yarns should be calming -- not alarming! Acquaint yourself with his wardrobe -- what color and styles does he wear? He will be more likely to wear the gift if it fits into his wardrobe and makes him feel good, comfortable, and special. Stroll through the men's departments in stores to learn what's current and fashionable.

Sweaters are popular ambitious gifts which can be expensive and time-consuming. However, if your guy doesn't wear sweaters or your budget or time doesn't allow a sweater, you can still knit him a special gift. What man doesn't need a warm scarf to compliment his coat, a cap to capture his body heat, a pair of socks or slippers to keep his tootsies warm, or an afghan for snuggling with his favorite knitter? Consider his preference for success.

Knit simple with love for HIM!"

Copyright © 2011 Sharon Greve, originally appearing in the November / December 2011 issue of *The Country Register*. No reprint without permission. Reach her at [castonshar@yahoo.com](mailto:castonshar@yahoo.com)

\*\*\* THE "WE CARE" TREE \*\*\*

The Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild's annual "Caps For Kids" project distributes warm winter items (hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, socks, slippers, sweaters, etc.) to children in need in our neighboring communities through the Westmoreland County and Fayette County Food Banks and local service unit of the Salvation Army. Thank you for helping us to fill our "We Care" tree by donating 47 new hand-knit and hand-crocheted items. To date, the guild has collected 380 items for this community service project. Your support and participation are greatly appreciated...



\*\*\* TIPS & TRICKS FROM THE EXPERTS \*\*\*

Knitters sometimes need a little help understanding the information on yarn labels. KRAEMER YARNS September 2011 has these insights: The stitch and row count and needle or hook size are only suggestions provided by the manufacturer. Being satisfied with your swatch is always more important than matching the stitch and row count on the label. Length and weight can be measured in both the Metric system and US systems. There are lots of conversion tools, but simple numbers are often all that is needed. An approximate measure, rounding up or down, makes it easier to make conversions. The standard skein sizes are 1.75 ounces which is equal to 50 grams and 3.5 ounces which is equal to 100 grams. One ounce is 28.35 grams, if you need to calculate skeins that are odd sized, such as 2, 4, or 8 ounce. To convert length, a meter is 39.37 inches and a yard is 36 inches. Kathy adds, a quick estimate of meters to yards is to multiply meters X 1.1.

When working with circular chain constructed yarns like ROWAN Lima, handknitting.com recommends using a tapestry needles to thread the new end up through the center of the yarn tube of the old end for about 4" - 5". Remove the needle and gently pull back on the yarn to bury the end. Then continue knitting...

\*\*\* DOUBLE-KNIT TWEED SCARF \*\*\*

This original design by Kathy Zimmerman originally appeared in the Holiday 1987 issue of *Cast On* magazine. We think it is a timeless style and are sharing it as our holiday gift to you. Happy knitting!

**MATERIALS:** approx. 550 yards worsted weight yarn (such as ROWAN "Scottish Tweed" or TAHKI "Donegal Tweed"); US size 8 (5.0 mm) straight knitting needles OR SIZE NEEDED TO OBTAIN GAUGE; US size F (3.75 mm) crochet hook for fringe

**GAUGE:** 16 sts / 24 rows = 4" in pattern stitch

To save time, take time to check your gauge.

**DIRECTIONS:** With US size 8 knitting needles, cast on 23 stitches.

Set-Up Row (wrong side); Increase 1 stitch in each stitch by working into the front and back of every stitch: 46 stitches.



Work EVERY row as follows: \*K1, bring yarn to front of work, slip 1 as if to purl, bring yarn to back of work. Repeat from \* across row.

Repeat this row until 72" from beginning, or desired length. Bind off in Knit 1, Purl 1 ribbing.

Fringe: Cut remaining yarn into 13" strands. Fold in half. From front side, pull two strands through with crochet hook in every other stitch in cast on and bound off edges. Knot. Trim evenly.

Copyright © 1987, 2011 Kathy Zimmerman; all rights reserved; for personal non-commercial or personal use only; please do not knit and sell designs from this pattern without the permission of the designer, Kathy Zimmerman.

\*\*\* KNITTER'S CHRISTMAS EVE \*\*\*

This poem was shared on the Internet. As far as we know, the author is unknown. Hope it fills you with smiles, joy and some good chuckles. Enjoy!

'Twas the night before Christmas and all around me  
Was unfinished knitting not under the tree.  
The stockings weren't hung by the chimney with care  
'Cause the heels and toes had not a stitch there.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,  
But I had not finished the caps for their heads.  
Dad was asleep; he was no help at all.  
And the sweater for him was six inches too small.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I put down my needles to see what was the matter.  
Away to the window I flew in a flash,  
Tripped over my yarn and fell down in my stash.

The tangle of yarn that lay deep as the snow  
Reminded me how much I still had to go.  
Out on the lawn I heard such a noise,  
I thought it would wake both Dad and the boys.

And though I was tired, my brain a bit thick,  
I knew in a moment that it must be St. Nick.  
But what I heard then, left me perplex-ed  
For not a name I heard was what I expected.

"Move, Plymouth; Move, Rowan; Move Addi and Clover;  
Move Kollage, Move Skacel, Move Tahki, move over!  
Berroco, don't circle 'round, stand in the line  
Come now, you sheep will work out just fine!

I know this is hard; it's just your first year,  
'd hate to go back to eight tiny reindeer."  
I peered over the sill; what I saw was amazing,  
Eight wooly sheep on my lawn all a-grazing.

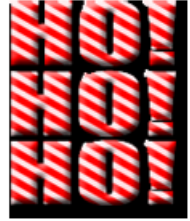
And then, in a twinkle, I heard at the door  
Santa's feet coming across the porch floor.  
I rose from my knees and got back on my feet,  
And as I turned 'round, St. Nick I did meet.

He was dressed all in wool from his head to his toe,  
And his clothes were hand knit from above to below.  
A bright Fair Isle sweater he wore on his back,  
And his toys were all stuffed in an Aran knit sack.



\*\*\* KNITTER'S CHRISTMAS EVE (con't.) \*\*\*

His cap was a wonder of bobbles and lace  
A beautiful frame for his rosy red face.  
The scarf 'round his neck could have stretched for a mile,  
And the socks peeking over his boots were Argyle.



The back of his mittens bore an intricate cable,  
And suddenly on one I espied a small label,  
'S.C.' was duplicate stitched on the cuff,  
And I asked, "Hey, Nick, did you knit all this stuff?"

He proudly replied, "Ho, ho, ho, yes I did.  
I learned how to knit when I was a kid".  
He was chubby and plump, a quite well-dressed old man,  
And I laughed to myself, for I'd thought up a plan.

I flashed him a grin and jumped up in the air,  
And the next thing I knew, he was tied to a chair.  
He spoke not a word, but looked in his lap  
Where I'd laid my needles and yarn for a cap.

He quickly began knitting, first one cap then two,  
For the first time I thought I might really get through.  
He put heels in the stockings and toes in some socks  
While I sat back drinking scotch on the rocks.

So quickly like magic his needles they flew  
That he was all finished by quarter to two.  
He sprang for his sleigh when I let him go free  
And over his shoulder, he looked back at me.

And I heard him exclaim as he sailed past the moon.  
"Next year, start your knitting sometime around June!"

\*\*\* WE LOVE KATHY'S RAVELRY NEWS \*\*\*

In addition to our in-person "meet and greet" on the second Saturday of each month, the "We Love Kathy's" group's current KAL (knit-along) is the "Larch" shawlette, a free Ravelry pattern. Ask to see Kathy's WIP (work in progress), knit from DREAM IN COLOR "Smoochy" in a gorgeous shiny moss green shade. This project is do-able for a variety of skill levels from advanced beginner to experienced, and it is not too late to join the KAL.

Linda Lash will be co-ordinating another KAL for Kathy's "Cable & Textured Vest" designed for KRAEMER YARNS, starting January 1, 2012. The pattern is available for free at [www.krameryarns.com](http://www.krameryarns.com), where you can view sizing and yarn requirements. This is the time to get past the holidays, make our DK weight yarn selection, make something for ourself or if you are still in the gifting mode, for some else. Hope you can join in on the fun. For questions, please contact Linda Lash ("International Girl" on Ravelry).



**\*\*\* CALENDAR OF EVENTS \*\*\***

Join the "First Mondays" Knit Club for an evening of knitting and fellowship, at Panera Bread Greengate; Greensburg, PA. Meeting dates are **Monday, December 5, 2011, and January 9, 2012 (second Monday), 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm.**

**\*\*\* "KNIT KNITE" AT KATHY'S KREATIONS Tuesday evenings, December 13, 2011, and January 10, 2012; 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm (rsvp please) \*\*\***

Join Laurel Highlands Knitting Guild members for an evening of knitting & lots of fun conversation with experienced knitters. All skill levels are welcome to come, sit & knit! In the event of nasty weather, please call ahead to make sure we are meeting...

**\*\*\* FUN FRIDAYS, December 16, 2011, and January 20, 2012; 10 am - 2 pm \*\*\***

All knitters & crocheters welcome! Our instructor Joyce Bischoff is available for help with your questions, skill building and how-to's for projects purchased here. Please call ahead to let us know you will be coming, as space is limited. Please bring your knitting, a snack if you wish, and a sense of humor...

**\*\*\* FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS LIGONIER TOWN HALL December 7 - 11, 2011, 12 noon - 7:00 pm \*\*\***

Look for our wreath, "Have a Merlot Christmas", decorated by Nancy Caldwell with the wine cork elves!

**\*\*\* WE WILL BE OPEN FOR THE LIGONIER MERCHANTS' TOWN-WIDE ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE, Sunday, December 18, 2011, from 12 noon - 4:00 pm \*\*\***

**\*\*\* ANOTHER FIRST FOR KATHY -- A PODCAST INTERVIEW! \*\*\***

What's a podcast? It's like a radio interview over the internet. Kathy was interviewed about her design process on Tuesday October 18, 2011, at 2 pm by phone. The show is available at [journalgazette.net/craftyliving](http://journalgazette.net/craftyliving). There is a new podcast every Sunday. You can access it from *iTunes*. It's called Math4Knitters - Journal Gazette. It's completely free to subscribe through *iTunes*. Kathy's interview will be show #104, airing begins on Christmas Day, 12/25/11!

**\*\*\* RAVELRY GROUP MEET AND GREET \*\*\***

Members of the Ravelry group "We Love Kathy's" will gather for a meet and greet at Kathy's Kreations on Saturday morning, **December 10, 2011, and January 14, 2012, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.** Please bring your knitting and any items to show and share. We plan to meet on the second Saturday of every month. All group members will receive a 10% discount on regularly-priced merchandise purchases on "Meet and Greet Day". Not a member? Ask us how you can join!

**\*\*\* WHERE'S KATHY??? \*\*\***

--- 8th Annual Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival; Four Points Sheraton; Mars, PA; Friday, February 11, 2012 1:00 pm - 7:00 pm; Saturday, February 11, 2012; 9:00 am - 5:00 pm; Sunday, February 12, 2012, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Kathy's large double booth (#2 & #3) will feature yarns, patterns, needles, and live technique demos. For info, e-mail [www.pghknitandcrochet.com](http://www.pghknitandcrochet.com) or call 412-963-7030.

**Private knitting, crocheting, felting, drop spindle, and spinning lessons available by appointment. We would be glad to do a specific class for groups of 4 or more. Kathy's Kreations has been the helpful hands of experienced knitting for over 31 years !**

This is the time of year that families gather, memories are made, gifts are exchanged and we reflect on those things that really matter to us. We are grateful for the special relationship we share with each of you -- thank you for supporting this independently-owned small business. Happy Holidays!

KEEP KNITTING & CROCHETING! Kathy